

**Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
January 9, 2017 – 7:00pm
Town Hall, Room 314**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Present: Chair Joshua Rucker, David Siegel, Melinda Montavani, Nick Delaney, Joe Kalache, Rebecca Hajosy, and Megan O'Neill

Absent: Jon Slifka, Deb Polun, Kelley Fournier, Michael Haeflich, Patricia Groves

Others: Mary Silverberg and Danielle Herbert

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. David motions to approve minutes, Melinda seconds

3. Announcements:

- a. Brain Injury Alliance of CT has an annual conference. This year it's on March 17th – Melinda distributed save the date fliers for everyone.
- b. Wednesday 2/8: Brain Injury Alliance valentine's day dance 4pm-6:30pm in the West Hartford Town Hall auditorium.
- c. 60 minutes piece - Josh is going to generate a letter in response to the 60 minutes piece that aired last month regarding ADA lawsuits. Josh will then send around for Commission review and approval and will find the appropriate party to send it to.

4. Old Business

- a. Snow Removal Business
 - i. Josh will reach out to weha.com and other local sites regarding snow removal. Prior communication has been sent via the town website and council briefs.
 - ii. Voter Experience – Jon Slifka was not in attendance and will report back on the State's efforts around employment for people with disabilities.

5. New Business

- a. Way to go CT
 - i. Danielle Herbert of the North Central Regional Mental Health board presented on Way to go CT – an effort to assist with transportation services which is a top 5 barrier for individuals with disabilities. The program operates under a federal grant. Danielle serves as the mobility manager and ombudsman for the

program, which can be accessed at Waytogoct.org – where everything is content specific by town, detailing transportation opportunities, associated resources and additional information. Danielle has also been in touch with local transportation services and private entities (i.e. Uber, cab companies) to discuss paratransit options and that information will be available on the website as well.

b. Brain Injury Alliance of CT

- i. The Alliance provides assistance to individuals with a brain injury apply for services and accommodations (i.e. places to live, food stamps etc.) and provides programming and additional support services for individuals with brain injuries. In terms of brain injuries in schools, there are programs embedded within the districts as well as an online tool kit available for teachers to go through modules on specific content. Facilitators are also available to work with families and professionals on this content.
- ii. Melinda referenced multiple resources, however the community based support is very slim in the state. Unless there are efforts to privately pay for resources, the affordability for care is a significant challenge. The BIA makes a concerted effort to send out available resources and to connect with those who are in need. Melinda distributed a sheet of accommodations with a list of the more common brain injuries and what resources are available.

c. Celebrate! West Hartford Update

- i. Nick and Rebecca have a table secured for the weekend of Celebrate! West Hartford. They are going to coordinate details in terms of scheduling and will be asking for volunteers from the Commission at the next meeting. Details concerning what will be available at the booth (information, giveaways, etc.) will also be confirmed at the next meeting.

d. Finalizing 2017 commission schedule

- i. The Commission approved the proposed Commission meeting dates for 2017.

6. Adjournment

- a. David moves to adjourn, Melinda seconds at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted: Nick Delaney, Commission member